

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMSIn the Claims:

On page 13, first line, delete "Claims:" and substitute the following: --I claim:--

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. Apparatus for adjusting the maximum bit-rate of a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), bound in a binder group comprising a plurality of DSLs, comprising:
  - controllers for each of said Digital Subscriber Lines (DSLs) plurality of DSLs for limiting the bit-rate for a corresponding DSL;
  - each of said controllers comprising means for requesting a bit-rate for a DSL controlled by said each controller;
  - processor means for storing and analyzing bit-rates for active DSLs in a said binder group;
  - said processor means programmed to detect if bit-rates for all DSL(s) DSLs in said binder group correspond to an unacceptable level of cross-talk;
  - responsive to detection of an unacceptable level of cross-talk, reducing the allowable bit-rate of the one or more active DSL(s) DSLs of said binder group to lower the cross-talk level to an acceptable upper limit.

CLAIM 2 (currently amended):

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein if said unacceptable level is below an upper limit ~~wherein an additional line can become active without exceeding said upper limit~~ above a level detected by said processor means, said processor means can activate an additional DSL line.

CLAIM 3 (currently amended):

3. The apparatus of claim 2 1, wherein if bit-rates for all DSL(s) DSLs in said binder group are correspond to a level above said unacceptable level, ~~but below said maximum level, the~~ an allowable bit-rate of one or more active DSL(s) DSLs of said binder group is reduced.

## CLAIM 4 (currently amended):

4. The apparatus of Claim 2 1, wherein if the allowable bit-rate of an-active DSL is reduced so that said processor means detect bit rates for all DSL(s) in said binder group corresponding all active DSLs of said binder group corresponds to a value less than said unacceptable level of cross-talk, increasing the allowable bit-rate of one or more active DSL(s) to raise DSLs can be raised while keeping the bit-rate for all DSL(s) DSLs in said binder group towards corresponding to a level below said unacceptable level of cross-talk.

## CLAIM 5 (original):

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said unacceptable level is adjusted upward if surrounding binder groups have a level of cross-talk substantially less than an unacceptable level for said surrounding binder groups.

## CLAIM 6 (original):

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said processor means are programmed to perform the detection step at intervals sufficiently frequent to minimize the probability of exceeding an allowable error rate.